

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SCCT-01 SY-05 CU-04 SCSE-00

SCA-01 A-01 OPR-02 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 (ISO) W

----- 080113

O R 271650ZMAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8356

INFO USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMCONSUL BUKAVU

UNCLAS DAR ES SALAAM 1744

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC (SMUTS, SMITH, HUNTER)

USIA FOR IBS, IPS

NAIROBI ALSO FOR VOA

SUBJECT: KIDNAPPED AMERICANS: US-NETHERLANDS PRESS CONFERENCE

NETHERLANDS AMBASSADOR JAN VAN DEN BERG AND THE AMERICAN
AMBASSADOR MET WITH NEWSMEN AT 5:15 P (LOCAL MAY 27.
AMBASSADOR CARTER OPENED THE PRESS CONFERENCE BY READING TWO
WRITTEN STATEMENTS WHICH WERE SUBSEQUENTLY GIVEN TO THE MEMBERS
OF THE PRESS (DAR ES SALAAM 1742). AFTER READING THESE TWO
WRITTEN STATEMENTS, AMBASSADOR CARTER SAID: QUOTE. FINALLY,
TWO MORE STUDENTS FROM THE GOMBE GROUP, NOT STUDENTS WHO
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WERE CAPTURED BUT WHO WERE IN THE CAMP, MISS PUSEY AND MR. PACKERN ARE ARRIVING TONIGHT AND THEY WILL BE STAYING WITH A MEMBER OF THE AMERICAN EMBASSY FAMILY.

AMBASSADOR VAN DEN BERG, WOULD YOU CARE TO MAKE A STATEMENT ON ANY PART OF YOUR ACTIVITIES THIS MORNING? UNQUOTE.
AMBASSADOR VAN DEN BERG:

QUOTE. I HAVE BEEN RECEIVED THIS MORNING BY THE PRINCIPAL SECRETARY MR. NYAKYI, AND HAD DISCUSSIONS ALONG THE SAME LINES AS THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR HAD A LITTLE BIT LATER WITH THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND MR. MUGANDA. MY FEELINGS ABOUT THE TANZANIAN CONCERN ARE JUST AS POSITIVE AND APPRECIATING AS EXPRESSED BY MR. CARTER. THAT'S WHAT I HAVE TO ADD. UNQUOTE.

AMBASSADOR CARTER:

QUOTE. FINE, WE'LL TAKE ANY QUESTIONS THAT YOU MAY WISH TO PUT.

UNQUOTE

FOLLOWING IS TRANSCRIPT OF PRESS CONFERENCE Q AND A:

Q. AMBASSADOR, WHEN YOU MENTIONED THAT YOU'RE CONSIDERING MANY WAYS OF CONTACTING (OR COMMUNICATING) YOUR CONCERN TO THE KIDNAPPERS, DOES THIS MEAN THAT IN THEIR RANSOM NOTE THEY DID NOT SET FORTH ANY WAY OF COMMUNICATING THE GOVERNMENT'S REPLY OR FOR NEGOTIATIONS?

A. AMERICAN AMBASSADOR
THEY DID NOT ESTABLISH A MEANS OF COMMUNICATION.

Q. ACCORDING TO YOUR STATEMENT THIS AFTERNOON, IT IMPLIED AT LEAST TO SOME OBSERVERS THAT THERE IS SOME DESIRE FOR BRINGING PRESSURE TO BEAR ON THE TANZANIAN GOVERNMENT TO COMPROMISE WITH THE DEMANDS BY THE KIDNAPPERS. I DON'T KNOW WHAT IS THE ACTUAL DEPOSITION OF THE STATEMENT...OF THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT.

A. AMERICAN AMBASSADOR
WELL, I HAVE READ YOU THE STATEMENT. I DON'T KNOW THAT I'VE SAID ANYTHING HERE ABOUT BRINGING PRESSURE TO BEAR ON ANYONE.
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Q. I THINK HE WAS REFERRING TO ANOTHER STATEMENT, MR. AMBASSADOR, WHICH WAS RELEASED EARLIER TODAY, ON THE POLICY CONSIDERATIONS.

A. AMERICAN AMBASSADOR

WELL, WHAT PORTION OF THAT STATEMENT MAKES THAT SUGGESTION

TO YOU.

Q. WHEN YOU SAY THE PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY RESTS WITH THE HOST COUNTRY. YOU INDICATED THAT THE HOST COUNTRY SHOULD USE WHATEVER MEANS TO ENSURE THE WELL BEING OF THE KIDNAPPED.

A. AMERICAN AMBASSADOR

WELL, THERE'S NO QUESTION ABOUT THAT. THE PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY DOES REST WITH THE HOST GOVERNMENT. MY GOVERNMENT IS A GUEST IN YOUR COUNTRY; WE HAVE NO RESPONSIBILITY FOR CAPTURING PEOPLE WHO COMMIT CRIMES. THIS IS AN INTERNATIONAL TRADITION. IF A TANZANIAN WERE ABDUCTED IN THE UNITED STATES OUR RESPONSIBILITY WOULD BE PARAMOUNT--THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE. AMERICANS HAVE BEEN CAPTURED IN TANZANIA AND THE RESPONSIBILITY IS CLEARLY TANZANIAN. THE TANZANIAN GOVERNMENT RECOGNIZES THAT.

Q. NOW THE FACT THAT THE HOSTAGES ARE IN ZAIRE, I DON'T KNOW HOW THE TANZANIAN GOVERNMENT CAN REALLY PURSUE THE RELEASE OF THE HOSTAGES APART FROM MORE CONSULTATION WITH THE ZAIRIAN GOVERNMENT.

A. AMERICAN AMBASSADOR

WELL, THAT'S A FACT THAT CAN BE VERY PRODUCTIVE -- CONSULTATION WITH A NEIGHBORING COUNTRY CAN BE VERY USEFUL. THIS IS A DEVICE WHICH IS EMPLOYED BY COUNTRIES WHEN CASES LIKE THIS OCCUR.

Q. WELL, I THINK SOME OF US ARE DRAWING A CONTRAST BETWEEN WHAT WOULD SEEM LIKE A VERY BLUNT TANZANIAN REJECTION AGAINST THE DEMANDS, AMBASSADOR, AND THE COMMENT IN THE EMBASSY STATEMENT TODAY WHICH URGED ANY MEANS POSSIBLE BE TAKEN TO OBTAIN

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THEIR RELEASE. CAN WE INTERPRET THIS AS SAYING THAT YOU WOULD LIKE THE TANZANIANS TO SOFTEN THEIR REJECTION?

A. AMERICAN AMBASSADOR

NO, WE'RE NOT TRYING TO TELL THE TANZANIANS WHAT TO DO IN REJECTING A DEMAND WHICH WAS MADE TO THEM. WE'RE SIMPLY SAYING THAT THERE ARE THREE HUMAN LIVES INVOLVED AND THAT EVERY EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE, EVERY AVENUE SHOULD BE EXPLORED, EVERY DOOR SHOULD BE KEPT OPEN, PENDING THE SAFE RETURN OF THOSE THREE HOSTAGES. THAT'S AN UNEQUIVOCAL STATEMENT.

Q. WHAT IS THE RESPONSE OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT TO THE REJECTION BY THE TANZANIAN GOVERNMENT OF THE RANSOM DEMANDS

BY THE KIDNAPPERS?

A. AMERICAN AMBASSADOR

AS I SAID LAST NIGHT IT'S FOR THE TANZANIANS TO DECIDE HOW THEY RESPOND TO A DEMAND OR CONDITIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN PUT TO THEM. WE DO NOT SIT IN JUDGEMENT OF WHAT OTHER GOVERNMENTS DO IN MATTERS OF THIS KIND. WE APPRECIATE THE PROBLEM THE TANZANIAN GOVERNMENT HAS IN THIS MATTER, ALL WE'RE SAYING IS THAT WE MUST CONTINUE TO FIND WAYS OF ATTEMPTING TO REACH THE CAPTORS AND ATTEMPTING TO FIND WAYS OF OBTAINING THEIR (THE STUDENTS') RELEASE. THESE ARE NOT MUTUALLY EXCLUSIVE.

Q. IS YOUR COUNTERPART IN ZAIRE INITIATING SIMILAR MOVES AS YOU ARE DOING HERE?

A. AMERICAN AMBASSADOR

MY COUNTERPART IN ZAIRE IS HAVING CONVERSATIONS EVERYDAY AS I'M HAVING, WITH THE ZAIRIAN AUTHORITIES.

Q. HAS THERE BEEN ANY RESPONSE AT ALL YET FROM THE ZAIRIANS WHETHER THEY CAN ORGANIZE SOME MEANS FOR CONTACTING THE KIDNAPPERS?

A. AMERICAN AMBASSADOR

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I'M NOT PREPARED TO COMMENT ON THAT RIGHT NOW.

A. DUTCH AMBASSADOR

THIS WOULD HAVE TO COME FROM THE ZAIRIAN EMBASSY -- FROM THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN ZAIRE, I GUESS.

Q. WELL, I'M JUST ASSUMING FROM WHAT THE AMBASSADOR SAYS ABOUT CLOSE CONSULTATION AMONG EVERY PARTY THAT HE MAY HAVE BEEN INFORMED OF THE PROGRESS...

A. DUTCH AMBASSADOR

YES, EVEN IF YOU WOULD BE INFORMED, YOU WOULD STILL LEAVE IT TO YOUR COLLEAGUE IN ZAIRE TO SAY SOMETHING ABOUT THAT.

Q. DO ANY OF THE PARENTS WANT TO GO TO KIGOMA?

A. DUTCH AMBASSADOR

HAVE YOU SPOKEN TO THE PARENTS ALREADY?

A. AMERICAN AMBASSADOR

NO, MRS. SMUTS HAS NOT EXPRESSED AN INTEREST IN GOING TO KIGOMA YET, AND MR. HUNTER AND MR. SMITH HAVE NOT YET ARRIVED.

Q. DURING YOUR CONVERSATION WITH THE TANZANIAN OFFICIALS, DID THEY EXPRESS CONCERN OVER, IN THE EVENT OF THE COMPROMISE OF THE KIDNAPPERS' DEMANDS, DOES IT NOT BRING, DOES THAT NOT ARISE, THE FUTURE OCCURRENCE OF SIMILAR INDICENTS?

A. AMERICAN AMBASSADOR

YOU SEEM TO BE PURSUING A LINE THAT I HAVE DIFFICULTY IN UNDERSTANDING. WE HAVE NOT ASKED THE TANZANIANS TO COMPROMISE THEIR POSITION. YOU CONTINUE TO TEFER TO THIS. WE HAVE SIMPLY ATTEMPTED TO FIND ADDITIONAL WAYS OF OBTAINING THE SAFE RETURN OF THESE THREE STUDENTS. I DON'T DESCRIBE THAT AS BEING COMPROMISE.
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Q. NOW, WHEN YOU SAY THAT YOUR EFFORT WITH THE TANZANIAN GOVERNMENT IS TO SEE IF POSSIBLY THERE IS ANY WAY, POSSIBILITY, OF TRYING TO REACH THE CAPTIVES, WHAT SPECIFIC METHODS DO YOU HAVE IN MIND RIGHT NOW?

A. AMERICAN AMBASSADOR

I'M NOT PREPARED TO GO INTO THOSE.
CARTER

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NNN

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